

Andrew Jackson to Aaron Vail, April 16, 1835, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

1 Chargé d'affaires in London.

Washington, April 16, 1835.

My dear Sir, Your private letter of the 6th of March has been received. I am gratified for the sensibility manifested by the King 2 in relation

2 William IV.

to the recent attempt upon my life, against which it pleased a kind providence to shield me. The sentiments expressed by his Majesty, are such, as from my impressions of his lofty and benovolent character, I should have anticipated.

It has heretofore given me much pleasure to learn that he did justice to my public acts and the motives by which they have been prompted, that he had closed his mind to the unfavorable representations which engendered here in the excitement incident to elections, were circulated in England where no intimate knowledge of individual character could well exist to neutralise such aspersions. he did me the justice to apply the scriptural rule, of judging the tree by its fruit, and to give me a place in his estimation upon the opinion he should form of the results of my public labours. This just and unerring guide of testing the worth of public character will I have no doubt place the King amongst the greatest of his countrys benefactors.

The account given me by Mr. VanBuren of a conversation he held with Sir Robert Peel, had prepared me for the liberal and friendly sentiments he has been pleased to express to

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you towards this country and towards me personally. I derive the highest satisfaction from them as well on personal, as on public account.

An opinion long since formed of the character of the Duke of Wellington, left me no room to doubt that he cherished those exalted sympathies which could not but belong to one, who had by his own chevalier character and exploits raised still higher the renown of a country which already stood amongst the first, in the annals of the world. I reciprocate the generous and friendly feelings he has expressed, with kindred sentiments.

My health, about which you so kindly enquire has been somewhat delicate of late but will, I trust, be improved by a short respite from business. It gives me pleasure to be able to say to you, that your conduct in the responsible situation in which you have been so long continued meets my entire approbation. while you continue to discharge your public duties with the ease and judgment which has heretofore characterised your conduct you may rely upon the favor and confidence of your Government.

Accept the assurance of my respect and esteem

[*Indorsement:*] A. Vails Esqr. letter of the 6th of March with the copy of the answer to be kept on private file. April 16th, 1835. A. J.

Sentiments of the King of Great Britain, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robt. Peel.